

health care is available and accessible to every person living in this country, in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and all of the offshore areas or territories. Let's make sure that universal health care is universal health care.

REPUBLICANS ADVOCATE QUALITY HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are offering positive solutions to our Nation's health care system. We are standing up for individual choice, preserving the all-important doctor-patient relationship, and giving families more resources and more of their own money to afford quality health care.

Our Democrat colleagues have abandoned any sense of bipartisan cooperation. That is why their health care proposals currently amount to a \$1 trillion big government takeover. Republicans are proposing tax relief for families and small businesses who are struggling to afford health care. We want to empower States and small businesses to band together for affordable insurance options. Rather than copy a failed central planning big government system, we are committed to weeding out waste, fraud and abuse.

Republicans are hard at work developing a set of patient-first health care reforms. We encourage our Democrat colleagues to join us in defending patient choice and quality care against the rationed care of a big government health care takeover.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

COST CONTAINMENT FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, in our health care reform, our aspiration ought to be to give Americans the health care that people get at the Mayo Clinic, and nothing less. We can do this even though this sounds like a high bar because at the Mayo Clinic they provide cost-effective health care. Medicare spends about \$6,700 a year in Rochester, Minnesota. In other places in the country, it is over twice that. In one town in Texas, it is \$14,000 a year.

We need in our health care plan to provide quality medical care, choice of medical care, and cost-effective medical care. That's why in our bill we are going to need to insist on measures of peer profiling for physicians, critical protocols to make sure that quality happens, and reward for physicians for high quality. When we do this, patients will have the same quality as the Mayo Clinic and the same cost as the Mayo

Clinic to the American taxpayer. That is a good deal. We have to make sure that cost containment is part of our health care plan.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS PETER CROSS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Private First Class Peter Kyle Cross wanted to be a missionary, but he decided he needed to mature a little bit first, so he joined the United States Army in August, 2008. He was born in Texas, but he and his family later moved to New York.

Private First Class Cross was deployed to Afghanistan in February with the 10th Mountain Division of New York. Private First Class Cross and his unit were out on patrol, and he went to get supplies for his fellow soldiers. Returning to platoon, driving on a narrow mountain pass, he saw a group of Afghan children herding sheep on the road. Peter swerved his Humvee to avoid hitting the kids and went off the side of the mountain. Peter Cross was 20 years of age.

This young American soldier's first instinct was to sacrifice his life for a group of children he did not know in a land far from home. Peter's father said of his son's sacrifice: "His last act in life showed what kind of man he was, selflessly thinking of others."

Last week, the governor of New York ordered all flags flown at half staff in honor of this Texan and New Yorker, Peter Cross. Amazing breed these young bucks of the United States Army.

And that's just the way it is.

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PRIMARY CARE

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I rise today to address the importance of primary care and comprehensive health care reform. As we move towards creating a uniquely American solution in which all Americans have access to affordable, meaningful, stable health coverage, we must remember that insurance alone means little if patients do not have adequate access to health care providers and services.

Primary care providers are on the front line of the health care system treating acute and chronic problems, preventing diseases, and keeping costly conditions from worsening. And yet, despite this essential role, it is primary care where we face the most acute provider shortages.

Fewer and fewer medical students are choosing primary care. Since 1998, the percentage of internal medicine residents declined from 50 percent to 20

percent. By 2025, America will have a shortage of 46,000 primary care providers.

I have introduced the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act. My proposal takes a comprehensive approach to addressing this problem, bolstering our primary care workforce and improving primary care services, providing scholarships and loan repayments, increasing payments for doctors, and eliminating copayments for Medicare beneficiaries seeking preventive care.

I encourage all these provisions to be included in health care reform.

NO SECOND STIMULUS

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I join the majority of Americans who found themselves in utter disbelief yesterday when they heard the majority leader say that this Congress might need to consider a second stimulus package. After the first stimulus package has proved to be a failure in stabilizing the economy and mitigating unemployment, the best solution the liberal leadership in the House can propose is to continue on this reckless spending spree.

At present, we are spending \$100 million a day on interest on the first stimulus, and yet unemployment has now reached 9.5 percent. This first stimulus has proved to be nothing more than a tool to fund a broad-sweeping social agenda that has been on the shelf for years. The Vice President said we misread the economy. Well, Mr. BIDEN, not one Republican in this House misread it because none of us voted for it.

If we really want to stimulate the economy, we should immediately cut marginal tax rates for all and provide emergency tax relief to the very entities that employ 70 percent of those employed—small businesses.

The American people have had enough of the tax-and-spend mentality of Congress.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Every week my office in San Bernardino, California, receives phone calls from constituents seeking assistance for their health care needs.

The cost of health care is flying through the roof. American families are struggling to pay premiums that are going up three times faster than the wages. The health care system is broken. This is not just disturbing, this is inhumane and un-American when you're being denied health care or can't get the health care coverage you need.

In my district, local small businesses are faced with choosing between offering health care coverage to employees